

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

S E C R E T STATE 085346

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, JA, UR, CH, TW

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR YASUKAWA

1. AMBASSADOR YASUKAWA CALLED ON SECRETARY AFTERNOON OF APRIL 23. BEGINNING WITH FONMIN OHIRA'S PROJECTED VISIT TO US, YASUKAWA SAID THAT OHIRA STILL WISHES TO COME TO US BUT THAT EXPECTED EXTENSION OF DIET SESSION MIGHT MAKE VISIT IN MAY IMPOSSIBLE. SECRETARY EXPRESSED GREAT RESPECT FOR OHIRA AND INDICATED STRONG INTEREST IN MEETING WITH HIM IN WASHINGTON. HE WENT ON TO EXPRESS REGRET OVER EVENTS WHICH FOLLOWED HIS FEBRUARY 13 MEETING WITH OHIRA AND CONCERN OVER POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH OHIRA IS NOW EXPERIENCING. HE ALSO VOICED GREAT RESPECT FOR HOGEN AND ASKED YASUKAWA TO CONVEY HIS REGRETS OVER EVENTS WHICH FOLLOWED FEBRUARY 13 MEETING TO HOGEN AS WELL AS OHIRA.

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2. EXPLAINING BACKGROUND OF SINO-JAPANESE AVIATION

AGREEMENT, YASUKAWA SAID GOJ HAD EXERTED UTMOST EFFORTS TO WORK OUT COMPROMISE WHEREBY JAPAN-ROC AIR LINKS COULD CONTINUE DESPITE CONCLUSION OF AIR AGREEMENT WITH PRC. AS RESULT OF OHIRA'S JANUARY VISIT TO PRC, PRC HAD DROPPED MANY OF ITS ORIGINAL DEMANDS. GOJ HAD TO DO SOMETHING TO "SAVE PEKING'S FACE", HOWEVER, AND THIS HAD UNFORTUNATELY "DESTROYED TAIPEI'S FACE". YASUKAWA SAID GOJ HAS NO INTENTION OF ABANDONING POLICY OF MAINTAINING CLOSEST

POSSIBLE TIES WITH ROC ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL BASIS AND WOULD SEEK TO RESTORE AVIATION TIES. GOJ SEES NO INDICATION THAT ROC INTENDS TO CHANGE POLICY TOWARD JAPAN IN FIELDS OTHER THAN AVIATION.

3. SECRETARY ASSURED YASUKAWA THAT WE UNDERSTAND JAPAN'S PROBLEM ON CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT.

WE HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH JAPAN'S ACTIONS IN THIS REGARD. IN RESPONSE TO YASUKAWA'S QUERY, SECRETARY SAID WE WOULD AGREE IF PRC PROPOSED DIRECT AIR LINKS WITH US. WE WOULD NOT HAVE SAME PROBLEM AS JAPAN, SINCE WE DO NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PRC.

4. ON TRIREGIONAL DECLARATION, SECRETARY SAID THAT DUE TO EUROPEAN ATTITUDE HE SEES VIRTUALLY NO POSSIBILITY OF CONCLUDING DECLARATION WITH EC, ALTHOUGH SOME FORM OF NATO DECLARATION MAY BE ACHIEVED. IN VIEW OF EUROPEAN ATTITUDE, SECRETARY INDICATED NO INCLINATION TO CONTINUE WORK ON A TRIREGIONAL DECLARATION. YASUKAWA AGREED.

5. ON SIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT, YASUKAWA NOTED RECENT SOVIET PROPOSAL THAT JAPAN PARTICIPATE IN CONSTRUCTION OF RAILROAD RATHER THAN PIPELINE TO TRANSPORT TYUMEN OIL. GOJ IS STUDYING PROPOSAL BUT RESPONSE WOULD PROBABLY BE NEGATIVE, DUE IN PART TO POSSIBLE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF RAILWAY. ASKED FOR HIS VIEW OF PROPOSAL, SECRETARY SAID THAT WHILE USG HAS NOT YET DEVELOPED POSITION, HIS PERSONAL VIEW IS THAT CHINESE WOULD NOT LOOK FAVORABLY ON PROJECT AND THAT RAILROAD WOULD GIVE SOVIETS ENHANCED

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CAPACITY FOR RAPID MOVEMENT OF TROOPS. WE WOULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES PARTICIPATE IN RAILWAY PROJECT AND DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN JAPAN'S SECURITY INTEREST TO BECOME INVOLVED.

6. YASUKAWA SAID THAT JAPANESE EXIMBANK HAD AGREED ON APRIL 22 TO SUPPLY CREDITS FOR THREE SIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS INCLUDING YAKUTSK NATURAL GAS PROJECT, IN WHICH

JAPANESE FINANCING WAS MADE CONDITIONAL UPON JOINT PARTICIPATION OF US EXIMBANK. ASKED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR US EXIMBANK FINANCING, SECRETARY NOTED DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES SURROUNDING EXIM CREDITS TO THE SOVIET UNION AND SAID WE WOULD HOPE TO OFFER EXIM CREDITS FOR SIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WHEN THESE DIFFICULTIES ARE OVERCOME.

7. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING, SECRETARY BRIEFED YASUKAWA ON HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST AND PROSPECTS FOR DISENGAGEMENT. KISSINGER

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